

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Christophe P.G. Gerald, et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Known

Filed: Herewith

For: DNA Encoding Mammalian Neuropeptide FF (NPFF)
Receptors And Uses Thereof

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
May 25, 2001

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants request that the following amendments be made to the above-identified application:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning line 8, page 1 with the following new paragraph:

-- This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/255,368, filed February 22, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/161,113, filed September 25, 1998, the contents of both of which are hereby incorporated by reference into the subject application.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 75, 78 to 96, 99 to 106, 109 to 133, 136

Christophe P.G. Gerald, et al.
Serial No.: Not Yet Known
Filed: Herewith
Page 2

to 141, 146 to 157, 159, 160, 162 to 177, 181 and 182 without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please add new claims 183 and 184 as follows:

--183. (New) A method of preparing a composition which comprises determining whether a compound is a mammalian NPFF receptor agonist using the method of claim 134, recovering the compound free of any mammalian NPFF receptor, and admixing the compound with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

--184. (New) A method of preparing a composition which comprises determining whether a compound is a mammalian NPFF receptor antagonist using the method of claim 135, recovering the compound free of any mammalian NPFF receptor, and admixing the compound with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 182 were pending in the subject application. By this Amendment, applicants have canceled claims 1 to 75, 78 to 96, 99 to 106, 109 to 133, 136 to 141, 146 to 157, 159, 160, 162 to 177, 181 and 182 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 76, 77, 97, 98, 107, 108, 134, 135, 142 to 145, 158, 161, 178 to 180, 183 and 184 will be pending and under examination.

Christophe P.G. Gerald, et al.
Serial No.: Not Yet Known
Filed: Herewith
Page 3

By this Amendment, applicants have amended the specification to update the continuing data and added new claims 183 and 184. Support for new claim 183 may be found *inter alia* in the specification, as originally-filed, at page 18, lines 25 to 29; and page 81, line 7 through page 82, line 13. Support for new claim 184 may be found *inter alia* in the specification, as originally-filed, at page 19, lines 6 to 11; and page 81, line 7 through page 82, line 13. Accordingly, applicants maintain that this amendment raises no issue of new matter and respectfully request that this amendment be entered.

Information Disclosure Statement

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97 (a)-(b), applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following references which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (**Exhibit 1**). The following references were previously cited in connection with the prosecution of U.S. Serial Number 09/255,368 from which the subject application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120. According to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of patents or publications that were previously cited by, or submitted to, the Office in connection with such prior applications need not accompany the Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, copies of the following references are not attached to this Information Disclosure Statement:

1. PCT International Publication No. WO 00/31107 published June 2, 2000;
2. PCT International Publication No. WO 00/29441 published May

Christophe P.G. Gerald, et al.
Serial No.: Not Yet Known
Filed: Herewith
Page 4

25, 2000;

3. PCT International Publication No. WO 00/00606 published January 6, 2000;
4. European Patent Application No. 884 387 (SKB) 12/16/98.
5. EST Database Accession No. AA 449919, published 06/04/97;
6. EST Database Accession No. AA 449920, published 06/04/97;
7. Allard, et al., "Mechanisms Underlying the Cardiovascular Responses to Peripheral Administration of NPFF in the Rat", *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.* 274(1): 577-583, 1995;
8. Cikoš, et al., "Sequence and Tissue Distribution of a Novel G-Protein-Coupled Receptor Expressed Prominently in Human Placenta," *Biochem. and Biophysical Res. Comm.*, 1999, 256: 352- 356.
9. Devillers, et al., "Characterization of a Potent Agonist for NPFF Receptors: Binding Study on Rat Spinal Cord Membranes" *Neuropharmacology* 33(5): 661-669, 1994;
10. Dupouy, et al., "Species Differences in the Localization of Neuropeptide FF Receptors in Rodent and Lagomorph Brain and Spinal Cord" *Peptides* 17(3): 399-405, 1996;
11. Knapp, et al., "Molecular Biology and Pharmacology of Cloned Opioid Receptors" *FASEB J.* 9(7): 516-525, 1995; and

Christophe P.G. Gerald, et al.
Serial No.: Not Yet Known
Filed: Herewith
Page 5

12. Payza, et al., "Modulation of Neuropeptide FF Receptors by Guanine Nucleotides and Cations in Membranes of Rat Brain and Spinal Cord" *J. Neurochem.* 60(5): 1894-1899, 1993.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

No fee, other than the enclosed \$1844.00 filing fee, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment and Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,


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